GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:193
ANSWERED ON:10.12.1999
QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS
KRISHNA BOSE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced to lift the ban on import of 2000 items at the Colombo SAARC meeting recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the neighbouring countries thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 193 FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.1999.

During the SAARC Summit held in Colombo in July,1998, the Prime Minister announced that India will lift Quantitative Restrictions maintained for Balance of Payments reasons on a preferential basis for SAARC countries with effect from August 1, 1998. Accordingly, vide Public Notice No. 25 dated 1.8.1998, import restrictions on 2307 items were lifted for imports from SAARC Member Countries for goods produced and originating from these countries in accordance with the Rules of Origin under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA). This initiative by India has been widely welcomed by SAARC countries as it would substantially increase the opportunities for them to access Indian markets and increase their exports.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH SAARC COUNTRIES (in Rs. Crores)

	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000 (April-August)		
SAARC COUNTRIES	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
Bangladesh	2922.87	188.85	2734.02	4168.03	267.65	3900.38	1000.57	121.38	879.19
Bhutan	49.53	49.95	- 0.42	40.26	25.73	14.53	20.31	30.63	-10.32
Nepal	631.79	353.64	278.15	628.32	597.24	31.08	314.56	275.85	338.71
Maldives	32.46	0.89	31.57	32.58	0.19	32.39	11.71	0.60	11.11
Sri Lanka	1818.23	112.26	1705.97	1851.45	164.00	1687.45	809.25	96.29	712.96
Pakistan	532.02	165.19	366.83	466.00	891.85	-425.85	145.40	112.05	33.35

Growth in trade with SAARC countries

Country	Ex97-98	Ex98-99	% growth	Im97-98	Im 98-99	% growth
Bangladesh	2922.87	4168.03	42.60	188.85	267.65	41.73
Bhutan	49.53	40.26	-18.72	49.95	25.73	-48.49
Nepal	631.79	628.32	-0.55	353.64	597.24	68.88
Maldives	32.46	32.58	0.37	0.89	0.19	-78.65
Sri Lanka	1818.23	1851.45	1.83	112.26	164	46.09
Pakistan	532.02	466	-12.41	165.19	891.85	439.89